

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 22 March 2008

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The Z-gram- IOOS is an informal way of keep you up on what's going on in our NOAA IOOS Office and NOAA IOOS activities. Please advise of additional addrees, or if you are receiving and no longer want to receive. If you think others could benefit from the Z-gram please pass it on. If you want to see previous Z-grams go the IOOS website under program updates

Programmatics:

- FY08: We have made our final FY08 funding recommendations. NOAA IOOS is recommending a total of \$20.4M dollars in FY08 go to our regional partners. I appreciate all of you who have been working with NOAA CSC on the scoping of the projects so that we can provide this to our Grants Management Devision. Our goal is to make awards for RA Support in April and May 2008 and for Regional Integrated Ocean Observing Systems in June 2008.
- Congressional Report: **No Change**
- FY09: **No change**
- FY10-14: NOS provided final IOOS narratives to NOAA CFO on 21 March. This entails describing what we will "buy" with dollars we might be given in FY10 based on (1) our long term vision, (2) what we will execute in FY08 and (3) what we hope to execute on FY09 depending on how the budget ends up. We try to keep a consistent story and always have to remember what FY year we are talking about. This is easier said than done - as they say kids do not try this at home.
- FY11-15: As part of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution System (PPBES) we are providing strategic papers that will serve this program as well as provide NOAA with needed information for the upcoming transition. NOAA IOOS through our Modeling and Observation Infrastructure (MOBI) goal within PPBES are participating in the writing of one of these papers.

Initial Operating Capability - Data Integration Framework (DIF)

- IOOS DMAC Standards Process: Spring IOOS DMAC Steering Team meeting - May 6-8, Silver Spring, MD.
- What the DIF?: Where are we, in cooperation with NOAA and Regional Association IOOS Partners have begun implementing OGC community-based standards for describing, formatting, and transporting for our 5 variables. We will be implementing the DIF at three NOAA data providers in August 2008: NWS's National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), NOS's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) and NESDIS's CoastWatch. This marks a significant milestone that our nation's ocean data will be interoperable, based on recognized standards, thus increasing the applicability of this data towards socio-economic issues such as Harmful Algal Blooms, Coastal Inundation, Hurricane Intensity, and Integrated Ecosystem Assessments.

- All 11 Regional Associations that operate thousands of environmental observing platforms will also be implementing DIF protocols and standards in fy08 thru fy09 thus increasing the density of data available to decision support tools and increasing forecast accuracy, length and resolution.
- This strengthens NOAA partnership with the Private, Academic and Industry sectors and begins weaving the national fabric for a sustained Integrated Ocean Observing System.
- These partnerships begin at home and the NOAA IOOS Program has reached this milestone through partnerships they have developed across all NOAA line offices via the NOAA IOOS Integrated Products Team whose membership includes: NOS: CSC, OCS/CSDL, OCRM/NERRS, NCCOS, CO-OPS, NMSP; NWS: NDBC, NCEP; OAR: PMEL, OCO; NESDIS: CIO, CoastWatch, NODC/NCDDC, NGDC; NMFS: Science & Tech, SWFSC, CIO

IWGGO:

- Dr. Altalo will complete her tenure as Director of Ocean.US on 31 March 2008. If you permit me to be so bold and write this on behalf of the IOOS community - I would like to thank Dr. Altalo for her dedication and efforts in both the US IOOS, and International GOOS programs and your efforts to further the ocean observing efforts. We wish you all the best in future endeavors and hope we continue to see you in the Ocean Observing world - Thank you.
- The IWGGO has agreed to develop a transition plan for Ocean.US. Dr. William Birkemeier, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Representative, has been named the acting Ocean.US Director and will lead this transition from April 1, 2008 through end of fiscal year 2008
- IWGGO IOOS Strategic Plan: Announced for review on the Federal Register March 11, 2008. Access for review from the Ocean.US Webpage: <http://www.ocean.us/IWGGO/spcomments>. **Comments are 4 April.**
- NFRA will address the IWGGO on Regional Associations/Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Systems at the 27 March meeting
- OOI-IOOS white paper: **No update.**

Collaboration:(projects will stay on the email through to completion)

- Bathymetric collection California and Interagency Partners: **No change.**
- Army Corps of Engineers collaboration on a National Waves Plan: Thank you to USACE, NOAA NDBC and the Alliance for Coast Technology (ACT) for providing the next draft of the National Waves plan. This plan has been forwarded to the IWGGO members for agency chop. From NOAA's perspective we are seeking comments from NOAA's Ocean Council; Observing Council, NOAA's CO-OPS office; NFRA and HSRP members. If you have not seen a copy through your agency or through one of these groups and desire to comment on the plan, please send me an email.

- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: Two telecons were conducted to evaluate a way ahead. We have two issues we need to deal with (1) Navy has new policies on numbers of portals into their system and (2) cost sharing agreements. Gabrielle Canonico, NOAA IOOS Program Regional Coordinator, is the IOOS lead and Mike Johnson is the GOOS/ARGO lead on this effort. It is important the our IOOS Regional community identify and articulate our needs for the services that are being provided by the GODAE server. Please work with Gabrielle and Josie on this effort.
- Waves in PORTS®: **No change**

Other:

- 18 March: The NOAA IOOS (Zdenka, Suzanne, Carl, Gabrielle, Jim Boyd (CSC)) met with the Alliance for Coast Technology (ACT) (Dr. Margaret Palmer and Dr. Mario Tamburri). We spent almost an entire day understanding their services, the evaluation of services by user groups and cost-schedule-performance. For those of you unfamiliar with ACT, they are a partner in the US IOOS program that provides sensor verification and validation. This is an important function as we field new oceanographic sensors - we need to understand how the sensors are working within a given oceanographic environment. ACT plays an important roll in transitioning emerging technologies to operational use in a rapid and effective manner. ACT maintains a dialog between technology users, developers and providers and maintains a comprehensive database on companies/instruments and technologies that can help you identify which sensors are best for your application. Partners in ACT include: University of Alaska/Alaska Sea Life Center; Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System; Moss Landing Marine Laboratories; Skidaway Institute of Oceanography; University of Maryland - Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, which also serves as the ACT Headquarters Location; University of South Florida; Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology - School of Ocean and Earth Science & Technology; University of Michigan - Cooperative Institute for Limnology & Ecosystems Research. I would like to thank Margaret and Mario for their time. Thank you to Jim Boyd - NOAA CSC - who is the Federal Project Officer for this program. And many thanks to my entire team that took the time to understand the services of ACT. For more info on ACT: www.act-us.info
- 20 March - Visit to University of South Carolina and those from USC involved in SECOORA. The highlight of my day was that I got to teach Dr. Madilyn Fletcher's class - Science and Policy class. I had a chance talk about Ocean Observing, IOOS, GOOS, OOI and the opportunities, challenges and importance of this to our nation and how we fit into an international effort - GEOSS. I met with Dr. Bob Thunell, Director, of Marine Science to hear about changes in the Marine Science program since my graduation a few years ago. With the SECOORA team, we discussed their strong involvement in information management and through this their connection to user applications that include: storm surge prediction models produced by NCSU that were used by SC

emergency management during major storms and efforts to model prediction of bacterial contamination and need for beach advisories and shellfish closures. Not limited to their own region, they have integrated RA data with the NERRS data for information products used by the shellfish growers in the Pacific Northwest. We talked about their specific support to NOAA's National Weather Service and how they are trying to expand the Carolinas Coast initiative to the South East Marine Weather Portal to provide coverage throughout the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. This example continues to demonstrate how the IOOS community is supporting all of NOAA and the Nation's missions. I promised to follow up with our NOAA Regional teams and NWS on this effort. Later in the day I met with Dr. Bulusu and his efforts in remote sensing and his work with Dr. Stan Wilson, NOAA/NESDIS. I also met with Dr. George Voulgars and he briefed me on his HF Radar work, and Drs Wethey, Helmuth and Woodin and their work on ecological forecasting and hindcasting in the Coastal Zone. I would like to thank Dr. Madilyn Fletcher for arranging this very informative day and yes it was great to be back at USC - Go Gamecocks!

- MPA Framework: Joe Uravitch, Director National MPA Center, sent our RA directors a request for your review of the recently released the /Revised Draft Framework for Developing the National System of Marine Protected Areas. Comments are due April 16, 2008. You can find electronic copies of the full draft framework and associated documents at <http://www.mpa.gov>. Joe and I have spoken on keeping our IOOS community involved in this process. Dr. Brian Melzian, the EPA representative to the IWGOO, also represents EPA's on the MPA FACA and has been instrumental in connecting our Regional IOOS community to this effort - thanks Brian.
- COML: Dr. Becky Shuford, NOAA IOOS office attend the spring Census of Marine Life U.S. National Committee meeting to ensure the IOOS and COML understand the best path forward.
- National HFR Plan: Dr. Jack Harlan, NOAA IOOS Program, will is leading an effort to write the National HFR plan. He has been coordinating with Josie Quintrell on getting the Regional Association boards involved. Jack and I had a chance to meet with Toby Garfield, Eric Terrill, Jeff Paduan, Josh Kohut, Scott Glenn and Mark Luther on what this plan needed to include and our need to begin with the end user in mind. ACT will facilitate the writing of this plan. Jack, is my POC and I ask you to work with him on this important endeavor.

Congressional:

- HR 2342 passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee without amendments. The bill is expected to be taken up by the full House later this month

Communications:

- IOOS messaging work group: Jennie Lyons has been leading an IOOS messaging group with participation from NFRA, Ocean.US, NOS Communications. They are finalizing key messages, "elevator speeches" and graphics. This is critical to

complete so that we can begin to show a true identity as a National IOOS program. I thank Jennie Lyons for leading this but would be remiss if I did not thank our NOS communications team lead by Carol Cavanagh and her team. As my folks have heard me say - we need to get to the other side of the question! Time is of the essence to finish this effort. I do not minimize the work it takes to get to the clean, crisp message, and accompanying material but showing a national look is so vital.

Upcoming Meetings:

- RA Assessments:
 - 23-24 APR, SECOORA, GCOOS, CaRA, -Houston TX
 - 30 APR, MACOORA, NERACOOS- New Brunswick, NJ (Rutgers)
 - 4 JUN, SCCOOS, CeNCOOS, NANOOS - Seattle, WA
 - 12 JUN, PACIOOS - 12 JUN
 - AOOS TBD, Silver Spring (telcon)
- 9-11 April: International Workshop on Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks - Molly McCammon will represent IOOS and RA support to this meeting
- 15-16 April: I will attend the GLOS Board meeting

During my visit in Columbia South Carolina, I also met with Mr. Don Tomlin, in his capacity as Chairman of The International SeaKeepers Society. The International SeaKeepers Society's mission is: "An organization of international leaders, which promotes synergy among citizens, governments, educational institutions and corporations to restore and protect the world's oceans." I first met Mr. Tomlin when he briefed Senator Graham on the importance of Ocean Observing and NOAA. I accompanied VADM Lautenbacher to that meeting. While I was visiting USC, Mr. Tomlin arranged for a meeting with Representative Wilson, and his District Director - Butch Wallace; and Kathryn Wade, of Representative Barrett's office, to talk about the importance of NOAA in South Carolina and Ocean Observing. He also arranged for Mayor Coble of Columbia to present me with the key to Columbia, South Carolina for both my service in the United States Navy and now with NOAA as the Director of NOAA IOOS Program. I was deeply humbled and honored by this gesture and sincerely appreciate Mr. Tomlin's and the International SeaKeepers Society's interest in our Oceans.

Cheers,
Zdenka